

No. 14,665.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1900—SIXTEEN PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

VICTORY FOR BULLER

He Carries Pieters Hill, Capturing About Sixty Prisoners.

HE HAS TURNED JOUBERT'S LEFT

More Details of the Capture of General Cronje's Force.

PRISONERS AT MODDER RIVER

LONDON, February 28.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen. Buller:

"Headquarters, Hlandwani, February 28, 5 a.m.—Following the passage of Langebaan's Spruit was commanded by strong reinforcements. I reconnoitered for another passage of the Tugela. One was found for me on the eastern bank of the Tugela. Royal Engineers, on February 25, we commenced making an approach thereto, and on February 26, finding that I could make the passage practicable, I crossed the guns and baggage back to the south side of the Tugela, took up the pontoon bridge on Monday night and relaid it on the new site, which is just below the point marked camp. During all this time the troops had been scattered, crouching under hastily constructed small stone shelters and exposed to a galling shell and rifle fire, and throughout they maintained the most excellent spirits."

Gen. Barton's Advance.

"Tuesday Gen. Barton, with two battalions of the 1st Brigade and the 2nd Brigade, moved on to a point about a mile and a half down the banks of the river and ascended an almost precipitous cliff of about 500 feet, assaulted and carried the top of Pieter's Hill. This hill, to a certain extent, turned the enemy's left, and the 4th Brigade, under Col. Norcott, and the 11th Brigade, Col. Kitchener, commanding, the whole under command of Gen. Warren, assailed the enemy's position, which was magnificently carried by the South Lancashire Regiment about sunset. We took about sixty prisoners and scattered the enemy in all directions. There seems to be still a considerable body of them left on and under Bulwer's mountain. Our losses, I hope, are not large. They certainly are much less than they would have been if it had not been for the admirable manner in which the artillery was served, especially the guns manned by the royal naval force and the Natal Naval Volunteers."

Queen Regent's Buller's Losses.

The queen has telegraphed General Buller as follows:

"I have heard with the deepest concern the heavy losses sustained by my brave Irish soldiers, and I desire to express my sympathy and admiration of the splendid fighting qualities they have exhibited throughout these trying operations."

STRONG WORDS FROM RUSSIA.

Newspapers Openly Advocate Armed Intervention for the Boers.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 28.

The newspapers here to the rest of the continent are in howling General Cronje's defeat and in virtual revolt against the British. They declare that the Transvaal has fully demonstrated its right to complete political independence, with an outlet to the sea. They suggest that the best help for the Boers would be to create a diversion against Great Britain elsewhere and maintain it as the duty of Europe to intervene and "end the most infamous of all the wars England has ever waged for predatory purposes."

HOW CRONJE SURRENDERED.

Details of the Brilliant Victory Won by the Canadians.

PAARDEBERG, Tuesday, February 27.

At 3 a.m.—The British camp was awakened by the continued rattle of rifle fire at daylight, and the news arrived that the Canadians, while the British were quite close to the enemy, were fusillading a range of fifty yards. The Canadians gallantly worked forward and occupied the edge of the trenches along the river, entirely enfilading the Boers. This movement was followed by a cessation of the fire, except an occasional solitary shot.

Gen. Cronje's Surrender.

Shortly afterward a note reached Lord Roberts bringing tidings of the Boers' unconditional surrender. Gen. Pretorius was sent to accept the surrender.

At about 7 o'clock a small group of men appeared in the distance, crossing the plain toward headquarters. The latter being apprised of Gen. Cronje's approach, Lord Roberts walked to the front, and a small group in which he sleeps and ordered a guard of the Seaforth's to line up. A group of horsemen then approached. On Gen. Cronje's approach, the British fired a volley, and the Boers fled in a panic, leaving a rough short overcoat, a wide-brimmed hat, ordinary tweed trousers and a pair of boots. It was the redoubtable Cronje. His face was almost buried in his curly beard was tinged with gray.

GEN. BULLER'S HARD TASK.

He Loses Heavily in Assaulting a Boer Position.

LONDON, February 28.—A special dispatch from Cape Town, dated Tuesday, February 27, says:

"The Boers are endeavoring to outflank us and severe fighting continues."

In the attempt of the Inniskillings Friday evening to rush the Boer position on Pieter's Hill, the Boer fire was so terrible that when the infantry emerged from the cover of the trees almost every man in the Inniskillings was wounded.

The advance line of the British reached a donga in front of the first Boer trench, which was not apparent until they were actually in it.

The Boers fled to the crest and then returned on either flank of the Inniskillings, enfilading the captured donga with a terrible cross fire.

It is impossible to advance or to hold the position, the British fell back and entrenched themselves half way up the hill. The Boers maintained a heavy fire.

In the course of the night the Dublin Fusiliers and the Connaughts arriving to reconnoiter the position of the Inniskillings, another attempt was made to take the Boer positions. This also failed. A heavy fire continued throughout the night.

The Inniskillings were short of ammunition. Eleven officers killed and wounded, and about two hundred and fifty non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

Gen. Lyttleton's brigade relieved Gen. Hart's brigade in the morning; and the Connaughts, though no great damage was done. Today an armistice was agreed upon to enable both sides to collect their dead and wounded. The Boers had suffered had very heavy losses, but they count

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

District Centennial Committee Submits Its Report.

PRESIDENT WILL SEND IT TO CONGRESS

Many Representatives Confer About Porto Rican Bill.

OTHER CALLERS TODAY

The executive committee of the District of Columbia centennial committee—Senator Perkins, District Commissioner Wright, John J. Edson, M. M. Parker, W. V. Cox and Gen. George H. Harrier—called on President McKinley this morning and presented the report of the work of the centennial committee. This report gives the plans for the celebration of the centennial of the adoption of the Constitution, and the propositions for the enlargement of the White House and the building of a centennial avenue.

The President will send the report to Congress, with a message of his own recommending the adoption of the plans proposed. The President expressed gratification at the work of the committee, and was especially pleased with the recommendation for an enlargement of the White House. It is thought that the President will send to Congress, He would hesitate to alone recommend an enlargement of the White House, but as the recommendation of all the states have united in an expression of the absolute need for a larger building he will strengthen their action by his own recommendation.

The committee was satisfied with the interior, and each member feels that the active aid of the President in all stages of the work for the centennial.

Conferences on Porto Rican Bill.

The great importance of the fight in the House over the Porto Rican tariff measure was keenly felt today at the White House, where discussion of the subject was almost constant. The President realizes as strongly as any member of his cabinet that the question is one of extensive consequence. He stands with his party and desires to see the bill passed.

Representative Tawney, who is in charge of the republican alignment for the vote to be taken early at the White House, informing the President that the bill would be close, but that he believed the bill would pass. Mr. Tawney went over the opposition to the bill in detail, telling the President the weak points and the work being done to strengthen them.

Representative McCreary also talked later with the President. So did Representative Scott of California, and Mr. Sprague of Connecticut, and others. The latter, Mr. Prince particularly, have been ranked against the bill, and it was thought that they would be the last to change. Two democrats who have been talked of as in favor of the bill were also at the White House, but were not seen by the President.

Representative Meyer of Louisiana and Davis of Florida. Mr. Davis is going to vote against the bill, but Mr. Meyer is a republican. Mr. Meyer's intentions this morning.

Representative McCreary said that he thought the bill would pass by a majority of two or three. The bill would be passed.

Both sides are confident, but both are also weak.

Representatives Allison, Gallinger, Depew and Eldridge talked with the President, some of them about the Porto Rican bill.

Today's Nominations.

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Treasurer—Thomas W. Wheeler of New York, to be surveyor of customs for the Port of New York.

Postmaster—Massachusetts—William F. Wiley, Peabody; Edward A. Ellis, Newton Center; Stephen H. Johnson, Georgetown.

Postmaster—New York—Gilbert F. French, Albany; Charles T. Jackson, Goshen; Wm. C. Collins, Homer.

Postmaster—Virginia—James H. Morrison, Manassas; Byron G. Hahn, Williamsburg.

New Jersey—George B. Jacobus, Caldwell.

Michigan—Eugene T. Slayton, Lapeer.

Minnesota—L. L. Redfield, Cloquet.

Missouri—Charles A. Sawyer, Jackson.

Indiana—F. M. McMillan, Williams.

Florida—F. A. Root, Miami.

Kansas—J. H. Smith, Downs.

Missouri—Major H. M. O'Reilly, surgeon, to be deputy surgeon general with rank of lieutenant colonel; Captain Wm. J. Wakefield, to be assistant surgeon general with rank of major; Second Lieutenant C. H. Whipple, Jr., 1st Artillery, to be second lieutenant of artillery.

ARRESTED AND DEGRADED.

Testimony of the Publisher of an Idaho Paper.

The investigation of the conduct of the United States military forces in connection with the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, mining troubles was resumed today by the House committee on military affairs.

Wilbur H. Stewart, publisher of a paper at Mullan, Idaho, a town near the scene of rioting, testified at considerable length. He said his paper had no official connection with the miners, and he had no part in the riots at the time of the blowing up of the mine. Subsequently, however, he was arrested without warrant at his office by State Auditor Bartlett Sinclair and an army officer. Mr. Sinclair said that he was a member of the United States military forces, and was in charge of the military forces. Mr. Stewart described the interior of the "pen" along the same lines as previous witnesses. He said he was compelled by the negro soldiers to do revolting work.

Stewart testified that when he got sick and refused to do the work on account of illness the negro soldiers used obscene language and oaths against him, until the corporal of the guard made them desist. The general treatment of the men in the "pen," he said, was revolting to an American citizen.

Mr. Stewart will continue his testimony when the investigation is resumed tomorrow.

At the request of Representative Lenz the following additional witnesses were subpoenaed: L. J. Simpkins, Wardner; Chas. Francis, Montana; George Cornell, Burke.

At the request of Representative Dick the following were subpoenaed: J. J. Coakley, Weiser, Idaho; Wm. Pipkin, Burke; A. R. Campbell, Spokane; Hugh Francis, Burbridge; W. S. Pipes and Roger S. Rogers, Wardner; Henry Hawes, Wallace, and Coumer Mallot, Spokane.

THE TELEPHONE BILL

A Tentative Measure Agreed Upon by the Subcommittee.

Special Meeting of Full Committee Called for Next Saturday Morning.

The special subcommittee of the House District committee having charge of the telephone bill has completed its work and submitted a tentative measure to the full committee. A special meeting of the full committee has been called for next Saturday at 10:30 to consider the measure.

The tentative bill is a modification of House bill 8780. The changes proposed by the subcommittee do not touch the question of what company shall receive the charter, but relate to the form of the charter. Mr. Pease introduced the amended bill in the House today, and it was referred to the full committee to be considered in executive session later, as stated.

The Principal Amendments.

The principal amendments suggested by the subcommittee are as follows:

In section 5 strike out the words "necessary to the operation of a telephone exchange of at least 1,500 subscribers within the time limited in this section;" and make the bond of \$100,000 to be furnished by the company to be licensed, and strengthen the provisions for forfeiture in case of non-compliance.

In section 7 strike out the words "and each subscriber shall at the time of subscribing pay in cash 10 per centum of the amount of the subscription, and the balance of the amount subscribed shall be paid as called for by the board of directors."

In section 11 strike out these words: "The amount of the capital stock may be increased in the discretion of the stockholders for the purpose of improving or extending its plant in the District of Columbia, or for purchasing, or connecting with, or for operating, or for any other purpose, any lines or companies beyond the limits of said District."

The subcommittee also added a section that the company shall pay an annual tax of 1 per centum on the gross receipts, in lieu of all taxes on personal property. The amount of the percentage will be fixed by the full committee.

It is the purpose of leading members of the committee to urge action upon the bill, to relieve the local situation respecting exorbitant telephone rates.

LOSS CLOSE TO \$1,000,000

Dry Goods District of Newark, N. J. Swept by Fire.

NEWARK, N. J., February 28.—The firemen were still hard at work today playing streams of water on the smoldering ruins of the large fire which last night swept through the entire dry goods district of Newark, N. J. The fire started in W. B. Snyder's department store, at Broad and Cedar streets, and destroyed the stores of J. M. Mentz & Co., hostelry; Bornstein & Co., shoes, and Bierman, pawnbroker. Besides these buildings and Snyder's department store, three three-story buildings on the north side of Cedar street were gutted and much damage was sustained by Thos. B. Allen, confectionery; Peddie & Co., druggists; David Strauss & Co., department store; N. Y. Realty, N. Y. Realty, N. Y. Realty; Cairns, photograph gallery; the Bee Hive department store and a number of minor concerns.

Injured Doing Well.

At the city hospital today it was stated that the firemen who were injured in the fire were doing well.

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BY ABOUT FIVE VOTES

Republicans Predicted Passage of Porto Rican Bill.

CLOSING THE DEBATE IN HOUSE

Representative Cummings Caused a Sensation.

FINANCE BILL EXPLAINED

The last day of the struggle over the Porto Rican tariff bill in the House of Representatives opened at 11 o'clock with almost every member in his seat and a large attendance in the galleries. The leaders on both sides were actively engaged in rallying their forces and making computations upon the final vote of 3 to 2.

Mr. Underwood (Ala.), the democratic whip, said the result would be very close and turn upon the vote of two or three men on the democratic side. Mr. Tawney, the republican whip, predicted that the bill would have five votes to spare. He said the main danger lay in the motion to reconsider.

Immediately after the reading of the journal the clerk began reading the bill for amendment under the five-minute rule.

Proposed Tariff for Porto Rico.

When section 3 was reached Mr. Payne, chairman of the ways and means committee, offered the following substitute for that section:

"Section 3. That on and after the passage of this act all merchandise coming into the United States from Porto Rico and coming into the United States from the several ports of entry upon payment of 15 per cent of the duties which are required to be levied, collected and paid upon the articles of merchandise imported from foreign countries; and in addition thereto, upon articles of merchandise of Porto Rican manufacture, a duty of 25 per cent of the value of the merchandise for consumption or sale upon payment of a tax equal to the internal revenue levied upon the same."

Mr. Payne said he had given no explanation of internal revenue and to be procured from the collector of internal revenue at or most convenient to the port of entry of said merchandise, and that he had no explanation of the tariff under such regulations as the commissioner of internal revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, should prescribe, and articles of merchandise of United States manufacture coming into Porto Rico in addition to the duties provided for in the act, should be taxed in rate and amount to the internal revenue tax imposed in Porto Rico upon like articles of Porto Rican manufacture."

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